Remarks:

The Examiner has helpfully suggested that certain claims will be allowed if amended to be independent and include all limitations of the claims from which they depend. This amendment is offered to place the method claims in condition

for immediate allowance.

Applicant is <u>not</u> conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claims 1 through 16 prior to this Amendment is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. Claims 2 and 4 through 8 were amended and claims 1, 3, and 9 through 16 were cancelled in this Amendment solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the allowable method subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by claims 1 through 16 as first filed and as presented prior to this Amendment and additional claims in one or more continuing applications.

For the reasons given, it is submitted that applicant's claims patentably distinguish the invention here disclosed and reconsideration and allowance are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

And 3 Could

Daniel E. McConnell Registration No. 20,360 (919) 543-1105